

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 14 and 35 are being amended. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 14-20, 35, 37-39, and 45-54 are submitted for reconsideration. Applicant has included the entire set of pending claims, including the original patent claims, in light of the previous Notice of Non-Compliance.

Claims 14 and 35 have been amended to delete the phrase "adjacent the end portion" and "at the second end portion," respectively. Applicants submit that these minor amendments to claims 14 and 35 do not affect their patentability. Thus, claims 14 and 35, as well as the claims depending therefrom, remain patentably distinguishable from the prior art of record.

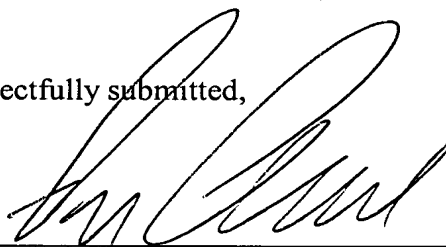
Accordingly, Applicants believe that the present application remains in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early indication of allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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